I CLAIM:

1. A method associated with minimizing random-access latency to a compressed source video data stream which is characterized with one access latency and one resolution, said method comprising

engaging such a source video data stream, and

dividing that engaged data stream into two, downstream-deliverable video data streams that are characterized by differing, respective access latencies and resolutions, one of which downstream-deliverable video data streams is characterized, relatively speaking, by a low access latency and a low resolution, and the other of which is characterized, in comparison, by a higher access latency and a higher resolution.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the two downstream-deliverable data streams are time-synchronized.

3. A method, practicable at a video-data reception location, associated with minimizing random-access latency at that location to received compressed video data which is characterized by a pair of video data streams, one of which is further characterized by one access latency and one resolution, and other of which is further characterized by another access latency which is larger than the mentioned one access latency, and another resolution which is larger than the mentioned one resolution, where such access latencies are differentiated by different time spacings that exist between designated video marker frames placed in the data streams, with larger spacings between such marker frames relating to larger access latencies, and with smaller such spacings relating to smaller access latencies, said method comprising

seeking access to the received, two-video-data-stream characterized video data,

in relation to said seeking, monitoring the two, associated video data streams to detect the first occurrence in either stream of a marker frame,

on detecting such an occurrence, selecting the associated data stream to be the source for a viewable output stream, and

(a) if the first detected occurrence involves a marker frame in the mentioned other video data stream, ending the monitoring and selecting process, but

(b) if the first detected occurrence involves a marker frame in the mentioned one video data stream, continuing to monitor the other video data stream to detect therein the first next occurrence of a marker frame, and on that detection taking place, switching to and selecting that other video data stream to be the source for a viewable output stream, and then ending the monitoring and selecting process.

4. Apparatus associated with minimizing random-access latency to a compressed source video data stream which is characterized with one access latency and one resolution said apparatus comprising

engaging structure for engaging a source video data stream, and

dividing structure operatively connected to said engaging structure, operable to divide such an engaged source data stream into two, downstream-deliverable video data streams that are characterized by differing, respective access latencies and resolutions, one of which downstream-deliverable video data streams is characterized, relatively speaking, by a low access latency and a low resolution, and the other of which is characterized, by comparison, by a higher access latency and a higher resolution.

5. Apparatus which is operable to practice a method implementable at a video-data reception location, for use in association with minimizing random-access latency, at that location, to received, compressed video data which is characterized by a pair of prior-divided video data streams, one of which is further characterized by one access latency and one resolution, and the other of which is characterized by another access latency which is larger than the mentioned one access latency, and another resolution which is larger than the mentioned one resolution, and where such access latencies are differentiated by different time spacings that exist between designated video marker frames which are placed in the data streams, with larger spacings between such marker frames relating to larger access latencies, and with smaller spacings between such marker frames relating to smaller access latencies, said apparatus comprising

seeking structure operable at the mentioned location to access such received video data,

monitoring structure operatively connected to said seeking structure for monitoring the two video data streams associated with such accessed video data for the purpose of detecting the first occurrence in either stream of a marker frame,

and selecting structure operatively connected to said monitoring structure, operable on the detection of such a marker-frame occurrence to select the associated data stream to be the source for a viewable video-data output stream, with said selecting structure specifically operating whereby (a) if the first detected occurrence of a marker frame relates to the mentioned other video data stream, the selecting structure effects an ending of the monitoring and selecting process, but (b) if the first detected marker frame

relates to the mentioned one video data stream, the selecting structure effects the continuation of monitoring by the monitoring structure of the other video data stream to detect therein the first next occurrence of a marker frame, and on such a detection in the other video data stream taking place, effects a switching to and selecting of that other video data stream to be the source for a viewable output video data stream, and with the selecting structure also then effecting an ending of the operations of said monitoring and selecting structures.